

## **JOPPA/JOPPATOWNE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Meeting Number 111 (04-11)

April 4, 2011

The Joppa/Joppatowne Community meetings are held the first Monday of each month at the Joppatowne High School beginning at 7:00 P.M. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate. Meeting Number 111 was called to order at 7:09 P.M. by Chairperson Paula Mullis, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of remembrance. Members present were Paula Mullis, Gloria Moon, Betty Byrne, Ron Sollod, John Henkel, James B. Lyons, Jim Thompson and Yvonne Baldwin and JoAnn M. Macdonald. Chairperson Mullis welcomed all community members and requested council members to introduce themselves. The chair acknowledged special guests: Pete Gutwald of Harford County Planning & Zoning and Merrie Street of Viridian. Paula Mullis made the motion to approve the Minutes for March 7, 2011 and John Henkel seconded the motion.

**The Sheriff's Office/Community Policing Report:** Deputy Crossley of the Harford County Sheriff's Office reported that there were 3,538 total calls for service for the county for March 2011 which was up from March 2010 by 294. Total calls for service for the Edgewood/Joppa Sector 10 were 3,244 in March 2010. Speculations for the increased calls were warmer weather and longer daylight savings time hours. Deputy Crossley reported that there was a burglary at the Joppa Library. However, nothing seemed to be taken. There is a surveillance video and an ongoing investigation. Capt. Warner, Commander of Northern Precinct reported a spike in copper theft around the county. Please lock cars—increase in theft from autos: iPods, coins, GPS. The new Southern Precinct building is progressing.

### **Presentation –Electric Generation, Delivery and Deregulation –Merrie Street**

Ms. Street began her presentation with this question: How many of you know how many kilowatt hours your home uses? Large utility companies such as BGE, Philadelphia Power and PEPSCO own, generate and distribute electricity. The rate payers are the consumers. Under energy deregulation several years ago, the decision was made by the Maryland State Legislature that the generation side be privately owned and operated—then rate-payers would have choices for the lowest price and could choose a distributor. The rate was capped at that time, but not high enough. Big corporate users had choice because of the large power use. Residential users did not have the choices in the early years. Coincidentally, as the law

was written, the cap expired after Hurricane Katrina. Electric rates are tied to natural gas rates, and the natural gas pipelines had been interrupted by the disaster. Thus, prices soared. The State of Maryland has at least two dozen electric power companies to offer residential users choice for distribution or delivery of the commodity (electricity). Twenty percent of residential customers have changed their distribution company. Companies want to keep the generation side unregulated. Ms. Street suggested consumers Google electric choice, then select links: MD Public Service Commission—People’s Counsel. PSC website changes monthly; what is current, contract information, fees—a comprehensive site. Council member Gloria Moon asked, “Why would we want to go to deregulation?” Ms. Street answered: If the electric power system is re-regulated then consumers will pay for the generation power plants, the wires, and all related equipment. Those who have contracted with distribution companies will be at a disadvantage then. Ms. Street also suggested Harford County’s green opportunity: Does anyone own a small business? “Empower MD” explains how much lighting usage determines electric bill. Note: Resident Leigh contributed this: Libraries have a Kilowatt-Hour package also known as “vampire usage”. Leaving devices plugged in, charging or not, leaks electric power and increases your electric bill.

#### **Scheduled Special Presentation –Pete Gutwald-Planning & Zoning**

Mr. Gutwald brought a map of the various community council areas, which showed the suggestion of moving the boundary lines to either include 21085 postal zip code *only, or to add two block groups* to the JJCC area. He asked opinions and explained the map. Discussion of reason to change boundaries ensued. Mr. Gutwald said that this suggested change doesn’t affect the data or vice versa. Council members have to either work or live in the community council district, not the elected council district. A motion was made by John Henkel to go by zip code; seconded by Jim Thompson. The motion passed. Fallston and Edgewood Community Councils will also give their decisions. Further, he announced the Open House for “Phase II Master Plan Land Use Development “to be held at the Harford Community College on April 7, 2011, at 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. He requested all community councils give input/comments on regarding the quality of life in their council areas. Go to Harford County Government website, P&Z, to see more information.

#### **Board of Education Update. None: Special Board of Education Meeting tonight.**

#### **Joppa/ Edgewood Independence Parade Update—Dion Guthrie (Sue Heselton absent).**

Parade: Incorporation of the parade organization is completed; 501c-3 non-profit status applied for. Cordish & Company (owner of Joppatowne Shopping Center) needs to sign paperwork. Dion said that

the carnival at the shopping center is the only fundraiser for the parade; bands cost \$600. With the amount of cars now patronizing the Mennonite/Amish Farmers Market, plus the Flea Market on weekends, the parking spaces will be reduced.

### **County Council and Community Update from Councilman Dion Guthrie.**

The councilman appointed Gloria Moon to assist on budget. Waste to energy plant progress: Concerns were raised. The U.S. Army still wants to go forward but is “dragging its feet”; however, the county is now working with the State of Maryland and Baltimore City to take Harford County trash and burn in Baltimore. JoAnn Macdonald asked why the Army is its dragging feet—why the delay when we have come so far? She offered to write a letter to *The Aegis* citing the problems in getting the Waste to Energy facility problem solved. The motion for JoAnn to write the letter was made by Jim Thompson; Gloria seconded. It passed.

Dion told the council that he had submitted a request for a County Council auditor. This auditor should not be made available to the County Executive, however. Reason for auditor: accountability of moneys distributed. Also, the County Council meets upstairs at 18 Office St., Bel Air, but it is not enough room. Money is not available for demolition of old County Council Headquarters building. Currently, twenty-four different buildings are leased—it contributes to waste in productivity as well as rental costs.

A concern was raised by a citizen about the speeding dump truck traffic on Fort Hoyle Rd. The Sheriff’s Deputies discussed it.

Also: between Pine Rd. and Oak Rd. —old furniture with store. Complaint: at night, lights over there, piles of wood, piles of concrete—what is going on? The Deputies took the report and said they will investigate.

### **Community Updates from Community Council Members and Community.**

Ron and Jim: 3 working fires. They described the ordeals and life threatening experiences for citizens.

Jim Thompson: Noise issue—Rt. 7 & Rt. 152; at the new WAWA store and strip center—delivery & trash collectors all night long. JJC Council member James Lyon said he called the Sheriff’s office and was told that there was no noise code in a commercial zone. He reported it to the Maryland State Police who responded that it was not in their jurisdiction. He checked out the State website: between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.—but unenforceable in Harford County as far as he can see. Baltimore Co. website follows state code. Jim suggested P&Z. 11 p.m.-6a.m. is in Harford County Code. He talked with WAWA corporate person. Suggestions made: e-mail Sheriff, Dion. Deputies made suggestions to talk. Jim said Monday,

Wednesday, and Friday –noisy trash compactor on WAWA property which is the culprit during night hours. Deputy made notes.

JoAnn: reported posting sign and submitting ads (Redner's Warehouse Markets' Bulletin Board/ HCN announcements online, [www.harfordneighbors.net](http://www.harfordneighbors.net) under Community Calendar; asked about local sign companies. Paula suggested a flier at the Mennonites/Amish Farmers Market/Flea Market. We should support these businesses.

John Henkel: April 16<sup>th</sup>—Parade at 11 a.m., and after that: spend an hour or two. Paula asked: If any council members can come out to man a table to advertise JJCC presence? Please do! Also, Paula: Red Cross Blood Drive at Ramada Inn...see flier. Best shrimp feast; Relay for Life: Ron is walking with group from Joppatowne Elementary School. Contact Ron for Cookie sales to benefit Relay for Life. See Relay for Life website—to sponsor Ron.

Q. from citizen: How to find out when a home or property is sold? A. Check on recent sales at Court House or a realtor who can look it up.

Adjourn: 8:50, Paula motioned, Jim seconded.

*Minutes by JoAnn M. Macdonald*